

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached set of drawings (1 sheet) includes changes to Figure(s) 1 and 2 to address the Examiner's objection. Specifically, both figures have been designated as "Prior Art." No amendments have been made to the Figures in this application.

Remarks

Claims 12-20 are pending. Claims 12-15 are currently canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of the canceled claims. Claims 16-20 are currently amended. Claims 21-24 have been added.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 16 and 17 contain allowable subject matter. Thus, claims 16 and 17 have been rewritten to include the subject matter of base claim 12. Claims 18-20 have been amended to depend from claim 16. New claim 21 is based on canceled claim 14 and is now rewritten to depend from claim 16. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 12-15 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in combination with Kawate et al. (US 6,051,652).

Applicants have canceled claims 12-15 without prejudice to render the objection moot.

The rejection of claims 12-15 and 18-20 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in combination with Kawate et al. has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

12 January 2009
Date

By: /Yen Tong Florczak/
Yen Tong Florczak, Reg. No.: 45,163
Telephone No.: 651-737-0710

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833